

findings (cf., Ford 1971; Frazer and Wilcox 1975). There is, of course, important colour and pattern variation in the Large Heath butterfly. However because of problems of subjectivity, different techniques are being developed to deal with it.

### References

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CATAPLECTICA FARRENI (WALS.) (LEP.: EPERMENIIDAE) AT MUCHALLS, KINCARDINESHIRE, — *Cataplectica farreni* has been recorded infrequently in Britain and is now thought to be extinct in England. In Scotland it is known to occur only at Muchalls on the north-east coast where the first Scottish specimens were caught by Dr. J. R. Langmaid on 26th June 1975 (*Proc. Brit. Ent. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **10**: 1977).

I would like to report further finds of *C. farreni* at Muchalls. I caught *C. farreni* along the Muchalls cliffs on 24th June and 16th July 1978. Both occasions were warm sunny evenings and on the former the moth was abundant and several were sitting on the flowers of the umbellifer *Heracleum sphondylium* L. (hogweed). On 11th July last year Dr. M. R. Young found three *C. farreni* at Muchalls, one on a leaf and two on flowers of *H. sphondylium*.

According to Col. A. M. Emmet (*A Field Guide to the Smaller Lepidoptera*, 1979) the larvae of *C. farreni* probably feed on *Pastinaca sativa* L. (Wild parsnip). This umbellifer is scattered throughout much of England and grows mainly on calcareous soils in the south and east but in Scotland it only occurs as an escape from cultivation. As far as I know *P. sativa* does not grow at Muchalls. Since imagines were observed on *H. sphondylium* on two separate occasions and the larvae of most other Epermeniidae feed on umbellifers it is quite possible that *H. sphondylium* is the food plant of the Muchalls moths.

The repeated finds of *C. farreni* at Muchalls and, in particular, its abundance in 1978 suggest that it is well established there. The Muchalls cliffs are by no means unique; there are many miles of similar coastline in Kincardineshire and elsewhere in north-east Scotland where *C. farreni* may await discovery.

Dr. M. R. Young and R. M. Palmer kindly identified my *C. farreni*. — DR. P. D. HULME, 10, Nethermains Road, Muchalls, Kincardineshire.